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NE NPR-A Amendment Planning Team / Bureau of Land Management (930)
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Re.: Teshekpuk Lake Surface Protection Area

Gentlemen -

001
Alternatives

I understand you are considering reducing the Teshekpuk Lake Surface Protection Area by some 75%! With about 1.4 million acres in the North-eastern Reserve already leased and being explored (for oil and gas), there should be no problem keeping the Teshekpuk Lake surroundings protected in perpetuity. Permitting people with their equipment (trucks, airplanes, drilling gear, etc.) will have a devastating impact on wildlife.

2

Besides, getting the oil or gas to where it is needed, becomes another invasion of wilderness areas. And, in the long run, it is not going to solve our energy demands anyway. Conservation and alternative energy sources are the only meaningful answer! Unfortunately, the only thing the current administration knows is drilling for oil and gas!!! As custodian and protector of public lands you need to put the brakes on leasing land to oil/gas exploration. Nationwide BLM is already going wild with drilling permits, with an anticipated 6000 by the end of the federal fiscal year in September!!!

3

The least you can do is keep Alaska WILD! The Audubon ALASKA pamphlet "Wildlife and Oil Development at Teshekpuk Lake" has plenty of expert opinion in favor of NOT REDUCING THE PROTECTED AREA.

4

The Union of Concerned Scientists accuses the Bush Administration of "distorting and censoring scientific findings that contradict it's policies" (Audubon July/August 2004).

5

After all, "faulty" intelligence got us into a quagmire in Iraq... No reason for the Bureau of Land Management to fall into the same trap!

Respectfully yours,

Gerhard Olving
Professor Emeritus of Architecture



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